

the

KALIFORNSKI

Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

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(408) 724-2900



*Dubovac Castle, from the 14th century, standing
above the river Kupa.*

PHOTO BY D. MANOLEV

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, a personal "Thank you" to John Selac for the ironwork he did for YACO, and to Tasos Petroustas for all the generous donations he makes to all our dinners. Thanks a million, fellows. We greatly appreciate it. Please don't forget the Christmas Dinner coming up. We need a full house for that. (And we also need a Santa Claus. I'm sure one of you fellows can do it. All it takes is a gift of gab.) It's beginning to look a lot like Bakalar in February. I'll keep you posted. A change in plans for October 1st. Instead of the one planned, we'll be looking for a nominating committee; nominees to the Board of Trustees. There are many of you out there who can do the job very well. It would bring new ideas, new faces, and more capable hands than some of us have displayed. We need you very much if we are to see YACO continue. I guess what I'm doing is pleading for help. If you can see your way clear to help us and help YACO, please call one of our officers. At any rate, please plan to attend the October meeting and lend your support to those of us who are trying our best to stay afloat. I'm not saying the job is easy, but you will need patience and ideas. How important are we to you and YACO??? Come to the meeting and show us. We need you in order to survive! Come one, come all. See you in October.

Bake

COMMITTEES —

John Bator, Publicity	724-2169
Jo Puhera, Sunshine	724-8930
Ann Cernokus, Decoration	724-5179
Mary Basich, Bake Sale	724-3637
Ella Korach, Dessert	724-5532
Naida Nicholas, Dessert	724-9211
Nick Miloslavich, Biographies	462-2532
Zarko Radich, Set-up	722-5182



"THANK YOU"

As a winner of the Yugo trip on the 4th of July Picnic, I plan to meet many of you in October 1989.

Many thanks for this wonderful opportunity to visit Watsonville.

*Ivica Derpich
Pučišća Brač*

P.S. — Za uspomenu svojoj sestri Frankig od Ince 1971.

Once again a big "thank you" to the crew who helped me on the Labor Day dinner.

Ron H., Steve Z., Ed J., and Cecil H. were all very devoted throughout the entire day in the kitchen.

I hope you all enjoyed it and I look forward to see you all at the October meeting.

Lena

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Potpourri

.. BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

Good thoughts and positive energies go out to Mary Gizdich, Ann Bopp and George Monkovich . . . Pat Gulermovich wearing a leg brace; you know how that came about? I forget the whole story but it went something like this: She was jumping around on something or other with someone, I forget who he was . . . Is anyone out there familiar with a book written about the Island of Brac in english??? If so, would you please call Joe Sapunar at 688-6164. He would sure like to hear from you . . . Did you see Marianna (Wathen) Espejo dancing the chicken at the Chix/Mac dinner? And she did her best to kolo also. I think she is barely two years old. That will be fun watching her grow up in YACO . . . Ron fixed up a trap and we caught the white parakeet, but the blue one never came back. I hope someone caught it . . . We have one more volunteer at the hospital — Ron just joined. He waited to see if I was going to like it after 11 years before he became a blue knight. Where is but in the coffee shop kitchen! . . . YACO had a very fine turnout at the YLI Slav night . . . The Chix/Mac dinner was a great success. The gourmet chefs served about 125 dinners. The price was right, the food was great, the music (by Santich) was excellent as usual. Some of the drawing winners were: Harold Farris was the 50/50 winner plus! Too bad that wasn't the State lotto, Harold. You were in the hands of Lady Luck that night. Other winners were Zalac, Bechis, Siefke, Adams, Ponza, Babich, George Zadravec, Sister Sebastian Adza and Pat Gulermovich . . . I really must close for now, but I did want to say goodbye to George Zadravec, who will be leaving us for the great southland, but he will be back, I'll bet . . .

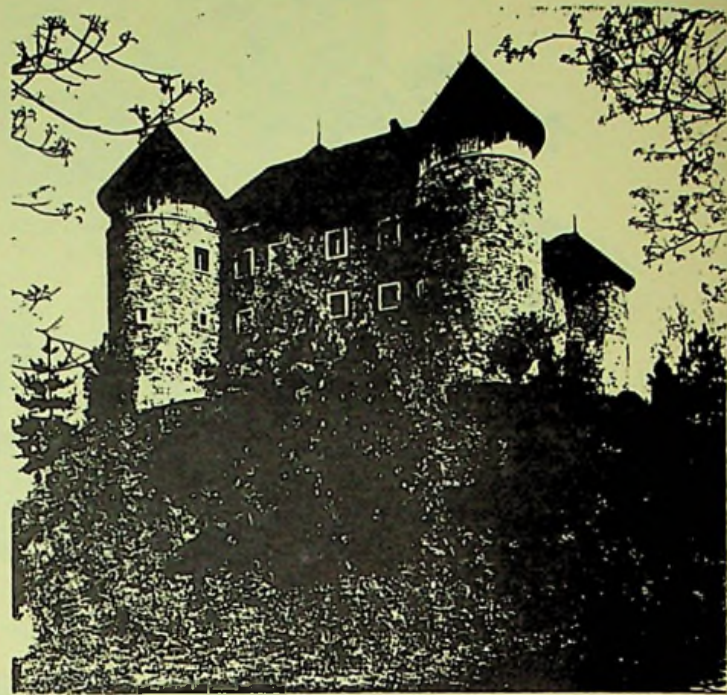
Toodle . . . ooo

Credits and Appreciations: Jo Puhera (ticket taker), Ann Cernokus (decorations), Judy Biskup (drawing), Zarko Radich (setup), Andy Gulermovich (refreshments), cook Ron Hill, Ed Jurach, Lena Derpich, Cecil Hamblin and Steve Zalac, and to John and Lucy Selak for their generous donation of handmade items for our drawing.

Sretan Rodendan; to the October-ites Steve Zupan, Pete Bilsich, Antoinette Abates, Lucille Deretich and Mary Siefke.

 **HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!**

KARLOVAC BY VLADIMIR FUNDUK



There are few cities which lie on four rivers and which know the exact date of their foundation. Karlovac is one of these. It was founded by decree of the Austrian Archduke Karl on July 13, 1597, as a military stronghold for defence against the Turks.

Located between these rivers, the citadel had an easily defensible position, and would-be conquerors were more inclined to bypass than attempt to capture it. Proud of his builders' work, the Archduke Karl gave the fortification his own name — Karlstadt. But it was not long before the local people began calling it Karlovac.

Its carefully designed nucleus is a masterpiece of Renaissance urban planning. Built in the shape of a six-pointed star, with moats and bastions which are partly preserved today, the town's streets all intersect at right-angles. The star shape is one of the characteristic features of Karlovac and of the work of its builder, Matija (Mathew) Gambon.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bespectacled hens are found in the village of Zalošče near Nova Gorica. Their owners Jože and Rafaela Vodopivec are convinced that hens with spectacles are happier and lay more eggs. This invention of the Vodopivec family has even found its way into Ripley's famous collection of wonders and attracts a large number of Yugoslav and foreign tourist to Zalošče every year.

Farmer Miro Benčić from the village of Benčići near Žminj has invented „taxi“ for pigs. The members of the Animal Academy of Žminj, a unique animal lovers' institution have proclaimed Benčić's conveyance the invention of the year. Every three years the Academy renders tribute to people who, by their ingenuity and creative talent, contrive to render animal life more bearable. The inventor has taken out a patent licence for the "taxi".

Zumer Baći from Kosovo Polje in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo has a snake farm in his courtyard. His seventeen year old daughter Nadžija began collecting snakes several years ago. Today Nadžija keeps about 600 snakes which she sells to various medical institutions.

Vlado Solomun from the village of Janjilo near Bosanski Petrovac uses a tame wolf instead of a sheepdog. The wolf was trained by his master while still a cub, and now fully grown, behaves like any other domestic animal.

In order to prove that he has lost nothing of his skill retired blacksmith Pera Radovanović of Kragujevac now horseshoes eggs as a hobby. As proof of his lightness of touch Radovanović has shod dozens of birds' and hens' eggs. Many "horseshoed eggs" were bought by tourists but Radovanović prefers to give them as presents to his friends.



"Geese have different faces just like men," affirms Sima Kompalić, a peasant from Deronja, who is always able when surrounded by hundreds of geese (which are generally considered completely "faceless" birds devoid of identity) to identify every one and say whom it belongs to.

Čazim Beganović, a pensioner from Brčko has grown the largest pumpkin in Yugoslavia. The giant pumpkin is 178 centimeters long. It is preserved today in the collection of the Dževdet Azapagić a collector of unusual objects from Doboj.

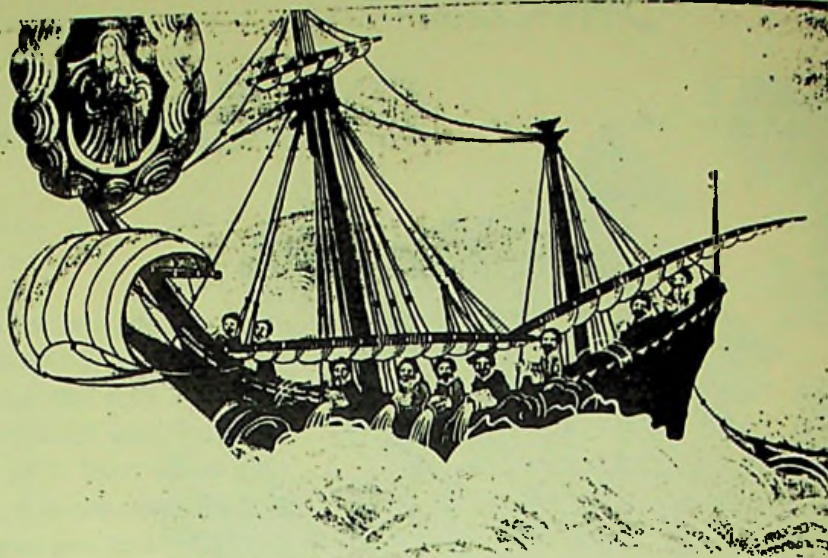
Dobrivoje Petrović a peasant from Bresnica near Koceljevo is able to multiply two six digit numbers in a matter of seconds without pencil or paper. The townspeople of Koceljevo intend to organize a contest between Dobrivoje and the computer of the Krušik factory.

The wittiest citizens of Našice are rightly considered to belong to the Henpecked Husbands' Society. The members of the society meet several times a year, and entertain the citizens of their home town by anecdotes, jokes, and quips from their married life. New members are admitted to the club once a year.

All six members of the Jakić family in Tešanj are amateur actors. When heard of last they were busily preparing the performance of a new play in which the entire cast were members of the family.

"Sleeping lessons" have been introduced in the Stanišići primary school, a village on the foothills of Mount Goč. Teacher Gordana Bogičević opened "sleeping classes" for pupils arriving from the remoter villages and hamlets so as to enable them to rest before attending the next lessons.

ENGLISH MARINERS AND SHIPS IN 17th-CENTURY DUBROVNIK



Great geographical discoveries and the formation and opening of new world markets in the 16th century resulted in the development of production in Western European countries, which began providing goods for these new markets. This commercial revolution caused many changes in both shipping and overseas trade. In the first place, maritime trade moved from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and commerce was taken over by countries on the western coast of Europe. While the West European countries steadily expanded production, the economic and social importance of the countries in the Mediterranean basin was on the decline.

The general economic crisis in the Mediterranean basin, and with it the economic conditions of Dubrovnik's merchant fleet, took a turn for the better half-way through the 17th century. Dubrovnik merchants began to concentrate more and more on transit trade coming from the inland Balkan countries and passing through the Dubrovnik to the West. At the same time, they strengthened their opposition to Venice and were able to organise their merchant fleet more effectively. The great earthquake of 1667 did not have a catastrophic effect on the Republic's maritime economy, and even after this fateful year in their history the people of the Dubrovnik Republic managed to retain their independence.

Throughout the 17th century Dubrovnik sailing ships were predominantly of medium size, i.e. 100 to 300 carra (the carra was a unit of volume; cargoes were measured in carra or cartloads). Ships exceeding 300 carra

are found only in the early decades of the century, but the ships built in Dubrovnik Republic itself were constantly being improved both in construction and furnishing. The following types of ship sailed at that time under the Dubrovnik flag: navas, galleons, patache, grippus, urque, frigates, pinqs, frigatoons, berton, shaicas, tartanas, scionizzas, feluccas, marsilianas, etc.

In the 17th century this merchant fleet mainly sailed to ports in Apulia, Abruzzi, Marche and Albania, and to Venice. Outside the Adriatic, Dubrovnik ships mostly plied the central and Eastern Mediterranean, especially the route: Genoa — Leghorn — Naples — Messina — Palermo — Crete — Alexandria — Smyrna — North Africa ports — the Greek islands — Istanbul. A lively trade was maintained with the eastern Adriatic coast, the main ports of call in the later part of the century being Senj, Bakar and Rijeka.

French tartanas, polacres and other ships docked in Dubrovnik's harbour during the 17th century. Large numbers (several hundreds) of Italian ships came and went, as did British merchantmen.

Dubrovnik's merchant marine even in the 17th century was important both for the economy of the Republic and in the Mediterranean basin as a whole. In some decades of the century, the total number of ships of this fleet actually exceeded the number of merchantmen from Venice.

A merchant trade at such a level of development, one mainly concentrated on sea traffic, naturally needed a number of maritime institutions. One

The Dubrovnik galleon of Captain Mate Fisković of Pelješac, in 1616.

such was the *Consulatus maris* — Assembly of the Dubrovnik Republic which was the most famous in the Eastern Mediterranean, and highly esteemed in the Adriatic. This *Consulatus maris* dealt with questions of maritime property, damage at sea, marine insurance for both Ragusan and foreign ships, etc.

The other most important maritime institution was the Lazarette — quarantine for handling and storing merchandise. It was a simple but imposing building, functionally designed to provide warehouse and storage space. Besides spacious facilities for both goods and livestock there were special premises where merchants and travellers could lodge for considerable periods (*contumacium*).

The presence of English merchants and mariners, and of English ships conducting maritime, trading and harbour operations in the Dubrovnik Republic, is not widely known. We are better acquainted with the life and work of Ragusans in London, about whom Professor Veselin Kostić has written most exhaustively.

In the 16th century, many Ragusans maintained maritime-trade relations in England, especially those who were permanent residents in London. Only a small number of Englishmen visited, lived in, and traded in Dubrovnik in 16th century.

By the first years of the 17th century, the role of Dubrovnik merchants in transit trade between England and the



A map of the Republic of Dubrovnik dating from the 17th. c., from the Maritime Museum of the Yugoslav Academy in Dubrovnik.



The galleon St. Maria Pelješka and its captain, Mate Fisković, in a storm, 24 September 1635. A votive picture in the Franciscan Monastery in Orebić.

Levant had fallen so drastically that one can barely speak about any role at all for Dubrovnik. It was at this time that English traders and English ships, especially those of the English Levant Company, took all commerce and shipping between English ports and the Levant into their hands. This English trading company received confirmation of its previously-existing privileges regarding the export, import and transport of English goods; it was emphasized in the privileges that members of the company could freely trade with the Venetian Republic, the Dubrovnik Republic, or any other state in the Adriatic basin.

Whereas before the 17th century trade in British textiles, especially kersey (directed toward the Levant), was in the hands of Ragusans, during that century English entrepreneurs and tradesmen took over this trade entirely, and English ships begin to transport it not only to the ports of Levant but also to the harbours of the Adriatic, including that of Dubrovnik.

English merchants and mariners made themselves at home in Dubrovnik, where they had their residences or lodgings, and received friends and visitors. They even conducted litigation before Dubrovnik courts.

All the goods with which English merchants traded in Dubrovnik and its hinterland were brought to Dubrovnik almost exclusively by English mariners in their own ships, generally of the berton type.

About 1600, the London Levant trading company had a fleet of 30 berton ships which carried a total of 5,400

tons. This means an English berton transported on the average less than 200 tons, and was much smaller than Dubrovnik's ships of 1605, used for extra-Adriatic voyages, of the navas and merchant galleon type (called ARGOSY by the English). It has been proved that the merchant vessels of the Dubrovnik Republic were among the best in the world until the second half of 18th century.

The effect of new economic and maritime conditions in the world were felt in the maritime economy of the Dubrovnik Republic, as well as in maritime-harbour operation. The economic policy of the Dubrovnik government in the 17th century was aimed at adjusting its economy to the new situation in the Mediterranean basin, in its own hinterland, and elsewhere in the world. This was the time when Dubrovnik was the major commercial intermediary between the Turkish Empire and Western Europe.

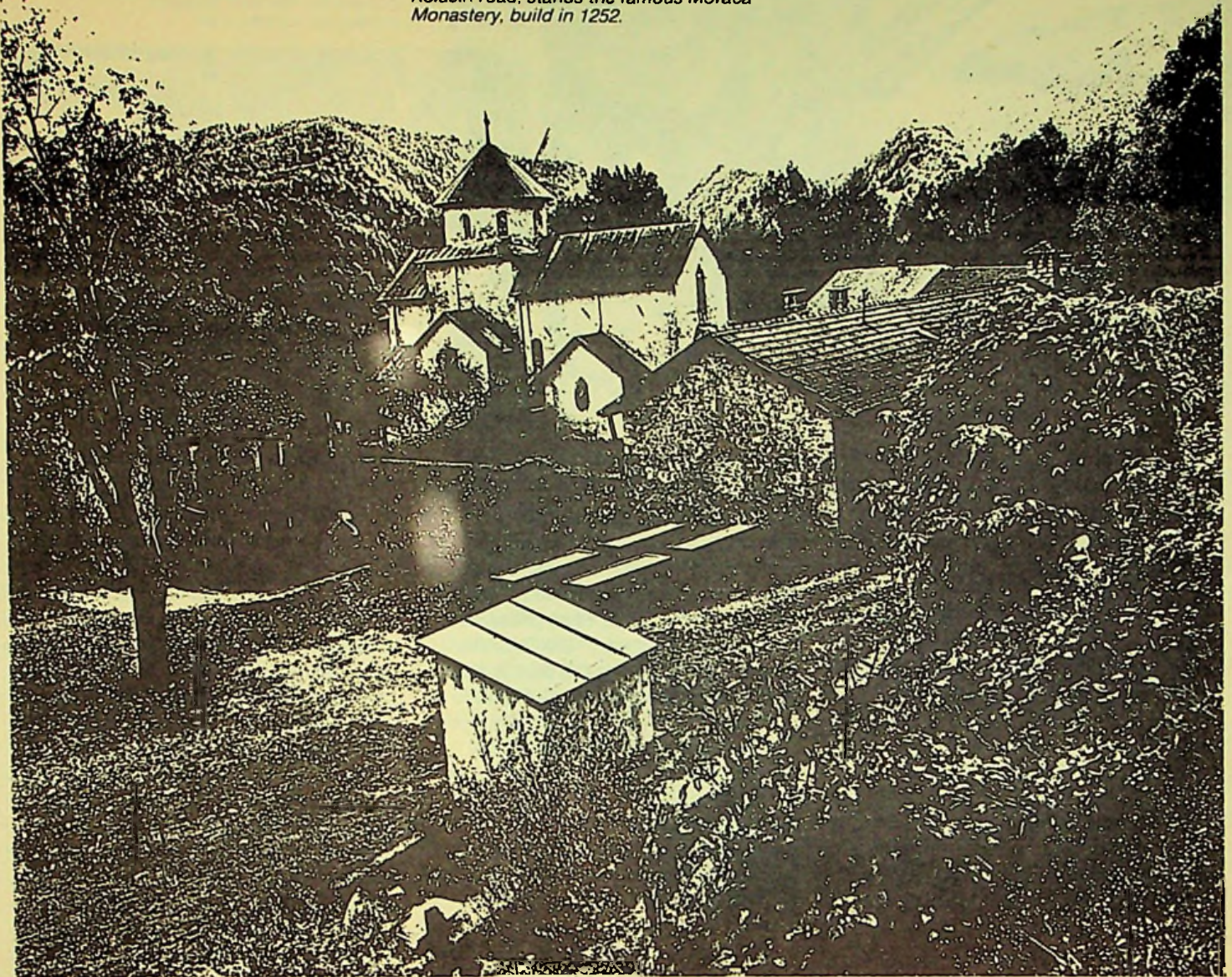
Dubrovnik ships on both the Adriatic and extra-Adriatic routes held first place in the amount of cargo carried from Dubrovnik. After them came ships from Italian harbours, then ships from Boka Kotorska, and other Dalmatian coastal communes, followed by French sailing vessels, and so on. A significant share in this maritime harbour activity went to English merchantmen. Never before or after the 17th century was there such an intense amount of visiting, living and trading in the Dubrovnik Republic by English tradesmen, sailors and ships.

The 17th century is marked by the most flourishing maritime-harbour operations in Dubrovnik and by the

greatest frequency of visits of English ships to the Dubrovnik Republic. In addition to other factors which led to the great volume of traffic, one of the prime movers behind this activity was the Londoner Samuel Vassal, about whom V. Kostić has written in great detail.

In the 17th century, about 65 English sailing ships put in at Dubrovnik and conducted maritime, trading and harbour operations. These ships were generally of the berton or the navas type. On the average, they spent about 45 days in Dubrovnik's port, and docked at other harbours of the Republic as well: at Cavtat, Gruž, Koločep and Zaton. Besides the contacts involved in the course of business with the Dubrovnik harbour, health, business and customs officials, English mariners must have visited Dubrovnik's inns and taverns, participated in public celebrations, become acquainted with Dubrovnik's citizens and visited their homes. One can safely state that a minimum of 3,000 Englishmen (and probably more) visited and stayed in Dubrovnik in the 17th century. Ordinary seamen made up the majority followed by captains, pilots, helmsmen, ship gunners, ship carpenters, ship surgeons, boatswains, merchants, and so on. Their residence in, visits to, and trade activity in Dubrovnik in the course of the 17th century, like that of Ragusans in England during 16th century, brought great material benefits to both sides.

*In the Morača River Gorge, on the Titogra
Kolašin road, stands the famous Morača
Monastery, build in 1252.*



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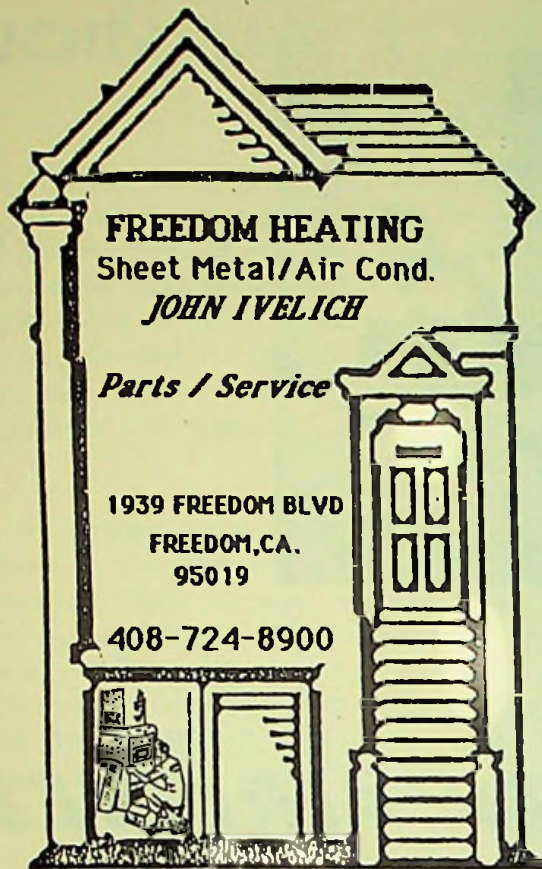


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ANN & ANDY SOLDI are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary, or for any special announcement.

LOST —

One very good Volley Ball at YACO's BBQ.

If anyone knows where it is, call Ron at 724-1284.

— No Questions Asked.



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JOIN US TODAY

YACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together Yugoslavs and other interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage. We are proud that among our membership we have families and individuals whose roots represent each region of present-day Yugoslavia, as well as non-slavic members who support the club's goals.

A year-around series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for YACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on Yugoslavia and its historic culture, plus potluck and sit-down dinners. We also publish a monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORNSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Yugoslav community.

Our meetings (the first Sunday of each month) may include a potluck, special dinner, films, dancing, and raffles, plus we hold an annual July barbeque.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find YACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership \$12

Family membership \$18

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Husband: _____

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Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Interests: _____

Yugoslav Background: _____

Children under 18 included in Family Membership: _____

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter each month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and
Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn
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SUGGESTED TOPICS:

1. Trips by YACO members
2. Visitors from the Old Country
3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad
4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members
5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs
6. Yugoslav recipes
7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories
8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
9. Yugoslav stories for children
10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members

NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that our members out of Watsonville are not receiving their KALIFORNSKI early enough to plan on attending any of our programs. Members in Watsonville receive their copies at least two days after mailing so it seems to be a problem with a hold up at the post office. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue. REMEMBER to send me any information by the 10th of each month.

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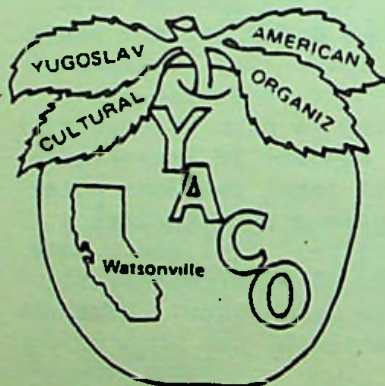
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CALENDAR

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